



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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Westminster Woman Sentenced to Prison for Theft from Her Employer

The former executive director of a Columbia-based non-profit professional organization has been sentenced to three years in prison for the theft of over \$381,000 from her employer. Carrie Diamond, of the 300 block of Montpelier Court, Westminster, was sentenced in Howard County Circuit Court yesterday.

Diamond, 45, pleaded guilty to a single count of theft, \$100,000 plus last November 8. According to police and prosecutors, Diamond used a corporate credit card to charge personal expenses and used her signing authority for the National Society for Histotechnology's checking account to pay the credit card bills. Diamond served as the organization's executive director from 2004 to May 2015 when she resigned.

During the sentencing hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Colleen McGuinn characterized the organization's financial loss "astounding" and spotlighted Diamond's credit card purchases of \$35,000 in parochial school tuition and fees for Diamond's daughters, \$6,800 to StubHub for tickets to sporting events and concerts, \$7,400 to Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, \$31,000 for a Bayliner recreational boat, \$2,400 to South Mountain Creamery for home delivery of milk and over \$50,000 for two personal vehicles.

Diamond's successor told Judge Richard S. Bernhardt that because of the thefts, the organization suffered a 32 percent decline in membership, had to lay off staff, and closed its office. She added that despite the setbacks, the organization which represents professionals from the histotechnology discipline who practice in clinical, research, pharmaceutical, veterinary, marine sciences, and forensic laboratories, is "poised for growth."

Judge Bernhardt admonished Diamond, "It's difficult to me that you couldn't comprehend the fullness of what you were doing every day," he stated, while noting that "three (blameless) persons lost their jobs because of you." He sentenced Diamond to 20 years in prison, suspending all but three years. Upon her release, she will be placed on five years of supervised probation and must reimburse the organization for its losses.

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